



Mary Elizabeth Lins

March 28, 1929 - November 7, 2024

Mary Elizabeth (Durst) Lins peacefully completed her earthly journey at the age of 95 surrounded by her children at home on Thursday, November 7, 2024.

Mary was a twin born on March 28, 1929, to Hubert and Mae (Killooy) Durst in Ithaca Township, Richland County. She attended the Catholic grade school at St. Mary's- Keyesville and graduated as Valedictorian of the Ithaca High School class of 1947 and went on to the Richland County Teacher's College. She earned her Bachelors in Education at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville.

She married Bernard Lins on July 31, 1956, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Keyesville and began a partnership based on hard work and generous sharing of her gifts, talents and faith. She worked alongside Bernard milking cows, feeding calves, and doing field work. Together they received the Richland County Outstanding Young Farmers Award and Mary received the Richland County Outstanding Farm Wife Award.

Mary was proud that she never applied for nor interviewed for a teaching position, but was asked to come and teach at various Richland County Schools. She started her teaching career in a one-room school at Hillside and later at Loyd. Later, she was asked to be an instructor at the Richland County

Teacher's College.

Mary stayed home with her children when they were small while taking care of her mother for 12 years. She sewed, gardened, and canned to save money at home. When a need arose at church for work as a sacristan, she accepted the volunteer position at her lifelong parish in Keyesville and gladly performed that ministry for 42 years.

After raising her children to school age, she was asked to teach mid-year at Ithaca Elementary School as a long-term substitute. The next year she was hired as a full-time teacher and thoroughly enjoyed helping students throughout the final 20 years of her teaching career. The love of teaching was especially rewarding when she could help a student who had fallen behind get back up to their grade level by the time she was done teaching them. While some viewed her as a strict teacher, she was also fair with her students--gaining their respect and appreciation.

Her teaching career spanned 35 years while also teaching Leathercraft for 4-H and CCD religious education for 31 years. Her parish life also included 21 years keeping the financial records for the parish. During this time, she won the inaugural Ithaca "Teacher of the Year" award, the Dr. Ken Solis Award for Excellence in Teaching, the Ithaca Hall of Fame Community Service award, and the Women of Light award from the Diocese of La Crosse. She and Bernard also received the Strangers and Guests award from the Diocese of La Crosse for service to the parish. In 1958, Mary was recognized by the Wisconsin Governor's Commission on Human Rights for successfully integrating black and white children in a one room school.

Mary and Bernard also enjoyed traveling, visiting various locations in the United States and Europe. They were especially interested in seeing sites with religious significance that strengthened their journey of faith. They went

on three pilgrimages with Cardinal Burke while he served as Bishop of the Diocese of La Crosse. Mary also served many meals to priests who either served as pastor at St. Mary's- Keyesville or who were visiting.

Her service to others continued during retirement. She served on the Richland Hospital Board for 7 years, the Richland Hospital Auxiliary for 10 years, and made over 200 quilts which were donated to veterans and various organizations.

Surviving her are her children, Alan (Amy) Lins, Mark (Ann) Lins, and Anne (Bob) Roth, Grandchildren Sarah, Matthew, Greg and Paul Lins and Mike and David Roth as well as sisters-in-law Betty Durst and Celie Speich and brothers-in-law Larry Downey and Roger Mellenberger.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her loving husband Bernard, siblings Nora Durst, Bernard Durst, twin sister Marian Bindl, and Hubert Durst.

A Mass of Christian Burial celebrated by Rev. Nathan Thainase will be held at Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary- Keyesville on Saturday, November 16, 2024, at 11:00 AM with burial to follow in the parish cemetery. Visitation will be on Friday, November 15, 2024, at Clary Memorial Funeral Home with visitation from 4:00 PM to 6:45 PM with a rosary at 6:45 PM. Also, rosary and visitation will be held on Saturday at church- Keyesville with rosary at 9:30 AM and visitation from 10:00 AM until the time of service at 11:00 AM. The family requests that memorials be made to Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary parish or Mass intentions for Mary.

Her life was exemplified by service to others, giving an honest tithe, and daily prayer.

The Mass of Christian Burial will be livestreamed on the St.Mary-Keyesville Facebook page.

Cemetery Details

St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery, Keyesville

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 15. 4:00 PM - 6:45 PM (CT)

Clary Memorial Funeral & Cremation Service, LLC
26777 Jelland Drive
Richland Center, WI 53581
(608) 647-6390
josh@clarymemorial.com
<https://clarymemorialfuneralhome.com/>

Rosary

NOV 15. 6:45 PM (CT)

Clary Memorial Funeral & Cremation Service, LLC
26777 Jelland Drive
Richland Center, WI 53581
(608) 647-6390
josh@clarymemorial.com
<https://clarymemorialfuneralhome.com/>

Rosary

NOV **16.** 9:30 AM - 10:00 AM (CT)

St. Mary's Catholic Church, Keyesville
32605 Durst Lane
Richland Center, WI 53581
(608) 585-4846

Visitation

NOV **16.** 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Mary's Catholic Church, Keyesville
32605 Durst Lane
Richland Center, WI 53581
(608) 585-4846

Mass of Christian Burial

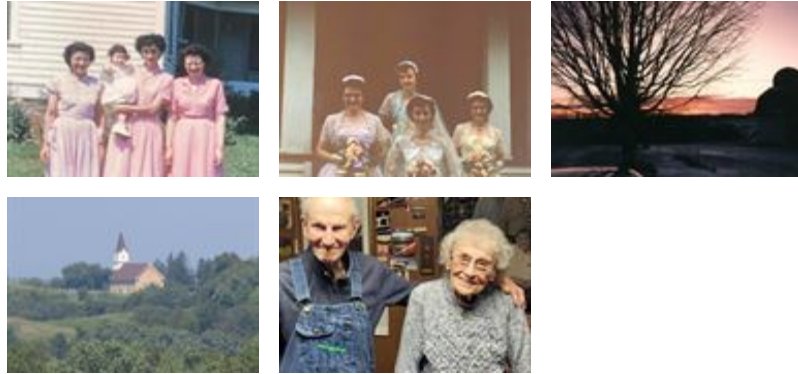
NOV **16.** 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

St. Mary's Catholic Church, Keyesville
32605 Durst Lane
Richland Center, WI 53581
(608) 585-4846

Tribute Wall



“ 119 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Clary Memorial Funeral Home - November 14, 2024 at 02:31 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket* was purchased for the family of *Mary Elizabeth Lins*.



November 14, 2024 at 09:18 AM



“ *The Bradens* purchased the *Gracious Lavender Basket* for the family of *Mary Elizabeth Lins*.



The Bradens - November 13, 2024 at 09:54 PM



“ *Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of Mary Elizabeth Lins.*



November 13, 2024 at 01:01 PM



“ *Anne's husband Bob's family can be a little overwhelming with a large number of children and grandchildren; Mary never forgot a name or which child belonged to which parent. She joined us for many holidays, birthdays and Michaels and David's milestones. Bernard and Mary traveled to Alaska with us; We observed the orcas together and she never judged when the wine ordered at dinner turned into another bottle! She also looked grand in the red boa at the Red Onion! Mary was as proud of Al, Mark and Anne as they are of her. So much love! I'll bet her reunions in heaven are beautiful. She will be missed, so happy I got to know her.*

Kim Gau - November 12, 2024 at 01:54 PM



“ *The Roth Siblings purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Mary Elizabeth Lins.*



The Roth Siblings - November 12, 2024 at 01:26 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Mary Elizabeth Lins.*



November 09, 2024 at 12:19 PM



“ *Mary was my teacher at the Teachers College when I was a 6th grader if I remember correctly. She taught me some good manners that year, once when another girl and I got caught having a spat 😏. I grew up a little that day. Thank you. Mary. You seemed strict but I respected you. RIP.*

Connie Anderson - November 08, 2024 at 11:31 AM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Mary Elizabeth Lins.*



November 08, 2024 at 09:16 AM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mary Elizabeth Lins.*



November 07, 2024 at 10:41 PM

CD

“ Mary was my teacher. She always set the bar high and expected me to work to achieve goals that I might not have set for myself. She always believed in me and her nudge and reassurances helped to drive me to succeed. She wasn't a coach of mine, but was an athlete in her own right. She often played games with us at recess, pitching for kickball or softball games . I saw Mary a little while back and she was sharp as a tack. We reminisced and laughed about the time I broke her glasses in two when I hit a line-drive back at her at recess. She said the same thing she did on that day, “That's ok. I should have caught that.” I will never forget Mary Lins. Thank God you were a part of my life. God bless.

Chris Drea - November 07, 2024 at 10:04 PM

JS

“ Mary was a kind and gentle soul that exemplified Jesus in all she said and did. My sincerest sympathies to family and loved ones, she will be greatly missed!

Jerome Schauf - November 07, 2024 at 09:36 PM

VK

“ Condolences on the loss of your mother. She was a sweet kind soul. I was fortunate enough to have her teach me leather craft in 4H. May your memories comfort you.

Vicki (Miller) Kimberlin - November 07, 2024 at 08:43 PM

SP

“ My sympathy to all the family. May your memories comfort you and help you smile in spite of your grief. She was a beautiful soul. You are in my prayers.

Sue Pilla - November 07, 2024 at 07:49 PM

JF

“ *My sympathy to the entire family. Mary was my Confirmation sponsor. She truly led by example.* ”

Jean M (Louis) Fry - November 07, 2024 at 07:29 PM